

BIRDING THE ELEVEN POINT RIVER



**Binoculars focused?
Bird Book Handy?
Get ready for a birding bonanza!**

Birding the Eleven Point River provides you with an opportunity to see species not normally encountered in urban, rural or upland environments. At the same time, more common species may also be seen or heard and you may even encounter a species listed as rare or endangered. The variety of habitats along the river's edge, coupled with the aquatic/terrestrial habitat boundary makes the Eleven Point River a great place to enjoy birds. Best time of the year is April through June when spring migration is taking place. Not only are year-round resident birds here, but also summer residents are back and many species (particularly warblers) are migrating from the tropics northward. Optimum viewing is in early April to early May before the leaves are completely out. However, all times of the year can yield satisfying results.

The best birding is by canoeing the Eleven Point Tuesday through Thursday. Canoes are the quietest way to get downriver and you will be one of the very few on the river at that time of the week. However, if you miss a bird, it's hard to canoe back upstream to take a second look! Float trips can take anywhere from a half day to several days. Canoes can be rented from outfitters listed on the river access bulletin boards or you can obtain a list from the Eleven Point Ranger District offices at Winona or Doniphan. John-boating is also a fun way to watch birds, although motor noise makes it harder to sneak up on wary birds.

If you are not the over-water type, good birding is possible at any of the 10 vehicle access points, from Thomasville on Highway 99 down to 142 Highway. If you are driving on Highway 19 south of Greer, keep your eyes peeled for scissor-tailed flycatchers perching on fences & power lines during the summer. Again, mid-week is the best time to visit and early morning or late afternoons to evening are prime birding hours. You may also walk in to the river's edge anywhere there is national forest land. There are many old roads that make easy walking, or if you are the adventurous type, a cross country hike using map & compass might be more your style. Topography maps are available at a nominal cost from the district offices or from USGS in Rolla.

The upper river (Thomasville to Greer) is narrow, swift and has relatively warm water. There are many private pastures next to the river, so openland species are more prevalent in this stretch. The middle river (Greer to Whitten) has the coldest water and the most heavily forested banks. Warblers and water species are likely to be found here. The lower river (Whitten to 142) is wider, not quite so cold, and has several areas of private pastureland adjacent. Great blue herons are especially common along this stretch. River use maps (available at the district offices) can help you plan your trip. The following list shows those birds you can expect to see or hear along the Eleven Point River. Shown here is whether or not the species is a year-round, summer or winter resident or a migrant, and the preferred habitat for each species. Not all species are listed here, so you may be lucky and see or hear a bird not on this list.

For more information about activities on the Eleven Point District of the Mark Twain National Forest contact:

Mark Twain National Forest (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain>)
Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District
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Season – All Year

Common Name	Species	Preferred Habitat	Notes
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Woods next to water	
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Sycamores next to water	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	River banks	
Belted kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Trees on river bank	
Pied-billed grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Along river	
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Pine/Oak-pine woods	
Sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatis</i>	Pine woods	
Cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Conifers	
Pine warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Pine woods	
Ruffed grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Hardwood forest	
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo Virginianus</i>	Hardwood forest	
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Woods	
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Woods	
Northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Woods	
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Woods	
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Woods	
Pileated woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Woods	
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Woods	
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Woods	
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Woods	
Hairy woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Woods	
Barred owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Woods	
Screech owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	Open woods	
Tufted titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	Open woods	
Downy woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Open woods	
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Open woods	
Red-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Woods near openings	
Northern bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Openings near woods	
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polglottos</i>	Brushy areas	
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Brushy areas	
Brown thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Brushy areas	
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Open areas	
American bluebird	<i>Sialis sialis</i>	Open areas	
Eastern meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Open areas	
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Open/woods	
Mouring dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Open areas	
American woodcock	<i>Philohela minor</i>	Moist soil	
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Bluffs	

Season – Spring/Summer

Common Name	Species	Preferred Habitat	Notes
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Open near water	
Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	River banks	
American bittern	<i>Botarus lentiginosus</i>	River banks	
Green-backed heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	River banks	
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	River banks	
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	River banks	
Little blue heron	<i>Florida caerulea</i>	River banks	
Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	River banks	
Yellow-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>	River banks	
Louisiana waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	River banks	
Sedge wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Low vegetation	
Cerulean warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	High trees near water	
Prothonotary warbler	<i>Proronotaria citrea</i>	Trees along water	
Cliff swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Dirt banks	
Northern rough-winged swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Dirt banks	
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Dirt banks	
Swainson's warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Cane	
Acadian flycatcher	<i>Epidonax virescens</i>	Riparian woods	
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Riparian woods	
Least flycatcher	<i>Epidonax minimus</i>	Riparian woods	
Northern parula	<i>Parula american</i>	Riparian woods	
Hooded warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	Riparian woods	
Worm-eating warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Moist woods	
Wood thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Moist woods	
Kentucky warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Moist woods	
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerula</i>	Moist woods	
Scarlet tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	High canopy	
Summer tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	High canopy	
Yellow-throated vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	High canopy	
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	High canopy	
Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platpterus</i>	Woods	
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzuz americanus</i>	Woods	
Black-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Woods	
Black and white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Woods	
Brown-headed cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Woods/Open	
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Open woods	
Chuck-wills widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	Open woods	
Whip-poor will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferous</i>	Open woods	
Eastern wood-pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Open woods	
Northern oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Open woods	
Orchard oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Open woods	
Great crested flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Open woods	
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Open woods	

Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Open woods	
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Open woods	
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Open woods	
Yellow-throated warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	Edge, large trees	
Warbling vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Edge, large trees	
Prairie warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Brushy	
Common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Brushy	
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Brushy	
Indigo bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Open/Brushy	
Bewick's wren	<i>Troglodytes bewickii</i>	Open/Brushy	
Blue-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Brushy	
Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Brushy	
White-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	Brushy	
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustico</i>	Open	
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Open	
Eastern kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Open	
Tree swallow	<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>	Open over water	
Chimney swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Open (flying)	
Common nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Open (flying)	

Season – Fall/Winter

Common Name	Species	Preferred Habitat	Notes
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Bluffs	
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bluff	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Bluffs	
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Woods	
Golden-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Conifers	
Ruby-crowned kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Woods	

Migration

Common Name	Species	Preferred Habitat	Notes
Blue-winged teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	River	
Northern shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		
Green-winged teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Woods next to the water	
Blackburnian warbler	<i>Dendroica fusa</i>		
Chestnut-sided warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>		
Blackpoll warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>		
Tennessee warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>		

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